CANADIAN Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 9, No. 7 TORONTO, FEBRUARY 16, 1944 $2.00 Per Annum

Slate All-Industry Pow-Wow

Indies, Circuits, Distribs To Debate Differences

Problems that have plagued the motion picture industry almost since its beginnings are expected to get a going-over at a scheduled meeting of representatives of distributors, circuits and Independent exhibitors at Toronto this week, the first such gathering since 1937.

The meeting will last for several days and provincial chiefs of the National Council of Independents are expected to be present. The meeting of Council men and members of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, which was to have taken place in Ottawa on February 8, was indefinitely postponed in favor of

(Continued on Page 2)

Booth Men Beef At Film Cond'n

Officials of the IATSE local in Ontario brought up two-man operation as a means of guaranteeing better care of machines and film when asked by O. J. Silverthorne, chairman of the Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection Branch, to acknowledge their ability to ob-

(Continued on Page 2)

'Self Regulation Best'—Moley

The development of intra-industry relations, in which the differences between distributors and exhibitors will be explored, will be an important part of a book being written about the motion picture industry by Raymond Moley, former adviser to President Roosevelt in the days

(Continued on Page 6)

Barnes and Davidson To Open Deseronto

The old opera house in Deseronto, Ontario, has been acquired by Barnes and Davidson and will be reopened for motion pictures. It has been closed for several years. Movies have never been shown there.

Paul Nathanson Back After Circuit Tour

Paul L. Nathanson, president of Odeon Theatres of Canada, has returned to Toronto closing a six-week itinerary which took him to all important houses operated by his chain between Vancouver Island and the Ontario capital. One of his chief purposes in making the extensive tour was to urge managers and partners to surpass all their previous efforts to promote public interest in the coming 6th Victory Loan.

Kent's 2nd Round In Montreal Fight

Kent Theatres Limited of Montreal, after failing to get an interim injunction last week to prevent Vitagraph and United Amusements from giving preference to the Snowden Theatre for the showing of "Watch On the Rhine," were successful this week.

Judge Louis Cousineau issued an interim injunction pending an interlocutory one, prohibiting the showing of the balance of the Vitagraph program.

It is contended by the Kent that a contract, which dated from 1941, was renewed and if it had not been signed for the present season, it has been unlawfully delayed and withheld. The contract, it was claimed, having been approved by the Montreal Film Board, it must continue during and after the basic period.

A hearing is set for later in the week.

Girl Manages Village

Miss Lillie, formerly assistant manager of the Eglinton, Toronto, is now manager of the Village.

Plans House for Ottawa Suburb

Town councillors of Eastview, suburb of Ottawa, accepted the offer of T. J. Lewis, local manufacturer, for two lots to be used for the building of a theatre in the future. Lewis received a promise that no more theatre permits would be issued for five years.

New Ontario Rules Still Being Studied

The new regulations of the Ontario Motion Picture Censorship and Theatre Inspection Branch are still under discussion and more changes are expected before they are submitted for approval.

May Be Recheck On Music Fees

The fact that no decision has yet been rendered by the Copyright Appeals Board on the application of the American Performing Right Society to share the field with the Canadian Performing Right Society has made it possible that a rebate or re-

(Continued on Page 2)

Winnipeg Deal KO'd by WPTB

The sale of the Playhouse, Winnipeg, by the City Council to an eastern concern for $75,000 may not come off. The Wartime Prices and Trade Board, through the Theatre and Film Section, refused to approve the deal. Under WPTB regulations "No premises that were not actually

(Continued on Page 9)

Quebec Juve Law Is Challenged

Legality of the Quebec law governing the admittance of children under 16 to theatres may be tested in court, according to the announced intention of M. H. Swards, defence counsel for B. A. Garson of the Verdun Theatre, Montreal territory. Swards is defending Garson, charged with violating the juvenile admittance law. He made a preliminary protest, contesting the jurisdiction of the court and maintaining that it should be a federal law and not a provincial one. The case is being heard before Judge Maurice Tetreau.

There have been frequent protests against the law in letters written to the press by parents. Catholic and Protestant children's welfare organizations joined to-

(Continued on Page 2)

Veteran Booth Man Passes Away

Tom Kenny, projectionist at the Midtown, Toronto, passed away last week. The Midtown was built on the site of the Madison and Kenny was the first operator of the earlier theatre, which opened 30 years ago. He was a charter member of the Toronto local of the IATSE.

A son, Elmer, was projectionist at the Kent, Toronto, until his enlistment in the RCAF.

Gung Ho! Rated by critics as one of the most exciting films in recent years, UNIVERSAL'S "Gung Ho!" has been doing powerful business in all its runs across the line. The story of the famous raid on Makin Island by the Marines, features such popular players as Randolph Scott, Grace McDonald, Alan Curtis and others. Book this sure-fire hit now through EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL.

Booth Men Beef At Film Cond'n

(Continued from Page 1)

serve certain sections of the regulations. Discussions are being held to determine future responsibility.

The Theatre Inspection branch sent letters pointing out those sections of the act which require booth men to check the machines, electrical connections and to repair all film while at the theatre. They were asked to sign and return these as proof that they were aware of the importance of these sub-sections but the union advised them to make no move until head office said so.

President David Seigel of Local 173, IATSE, issued the following statement:

"Inasmuch as film coming out of the film exchanges is in such a deplorable state of unrepair lately and because bookings made by the exchanges in which film goes from theatre to theatre without being revised properly by the exchanges, we will have to insist on two-man operation to safeguard the public. However, this matter is still being taken up with the Inspection Department to see what can be done to get the film exchanges to assume full responsibility for the condition of film sent out by them."

Projectionists claim that many features arrive a few minutes before the program is scheduled to start, although the contract provides that they must be on hand two hours before the usual opening time. Features often circulate several theatres before being returned to the exchange. Projectionists who find film damaged on inspection notify the owner, who wires the exchange about that condition.

It is also claimed that because of the lack of parts or the owner's failure to service the machines regularly, film is sometimes damaged and sent to the next situation without being repaired first. Government inspectors are supposed to check the condition of the machines.

Mills, Century, K'chr, Gets Legion Award

Lloyd Mills, manager of the Century, Kitchener, Ontario, has been presented with the first Canadian Legion Certificate of Merit to be awarded in that part of the province.

He ran 31 Sunday evening concerts and raised over $3,000 for the Overseas Parcels Fund in the district. There are nearly 5,000 from that area in the services. Concerts have been discontinued because of the coal shortage.

Trade Pow-Wow At Toronto

(Continued from Page 1)

the all-around pow-wow.

The Independents expect to talk about clearances, groupings, prices, conciliation and such nettlesome matters. To what extent the distributors are willing to go along with them is the subject of much guessing. It is expected that any distributor approval of the re-establishment of conciliation committees may stipulate that these are to begin after the war. Their function is now exercised by the Theatre and Film Section of the WPTB.

Two conciliation bodies were active in Canada during 1938, one in Halifax and the other in Toronto, and faded out after the WPTB was created. The Toronto committee was part of the Motion Picture Branch of the Board of Trade and general principles set forth that "The authority of the Committee shall extend to a consideration of such matters as premiums, games, contests, children's matinees, length of program, and all other matters pertaining to the industry, including the principles and ethics of clearances." The reference to clearances was added later.

Agitation for the establishment of clearance committees was begun in 1935 by the Anti-Protection League. A code in keeping with the motion picture directive of the NRA was agreed on and it was planned to create a National Clearance Committee in each of the six distribution territories, with a National Board of Appeal as the final authority. The outbreak of war caused interest to be diverted and later the creation of the WPTB was presumed to replace such machinery. The Anti-Protection League and the Independent Theatres Association, its founder, became inactive, the latter organization subsequently disbanding in favor of the Motion Picture Theatres Association of Ontario.

Subsequently a National Advisory Council was formed. This body had no authority and its requests were subject to the approval of the director of the industry for the WPTB. The Independents under the National Council banner consistently appealed to the director and to Ottawa for correction of certain matters. The Council lapsed and no meeting has been held for a long time.

More B.C. Theatres To Odeon Circuit

Two more houses have been purchased outright by Odeon Theatres of Canada. These houses, according to Haskell Masters, General Manager of the company, are the Abbottsford in Abbottsford and the Gem in Haney. These two additions give Odeon 27 houses in the province of British Columbia.

May Be Recheck On Music Fees

(Continued from Page 1)

adjustment may be necessary from the latter.

Representatives of the Musical Protective Society did not object to the same overall annual total of fees or a granting of a licence to the new body. Their position was that if the American Performing Right Society entered the field, the repertoire of the CPRS would be reduced and fees should be adjusted accordingly.

Since music fees are payable quarterly and in advance, the question arose as to how such payments for the first two quarters of 1944 should be treated. Such return of fees is being continued on the understanding that, if a licence is granted to APRS and lower fees stipulated for the CPRS, an adjustment will be made in the following quarters.

The present fees are based on the operation of one society in Canada and there is no doubt that fees will be changed if a second one is licensed.

All-Industry Council Proposed in Britain

A national council of the British film industry, on which every section of the trade will be represented, has been proposed by J. Arthur Rank.

The CEA, exhibitors' association, and the KRS, distributors' association, recently authorized a joint body on trade grievances.

Film Weekly

Vol. 9, No. 7 Feb. 16, 1944

HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

Address all communications—The Managing Editor, Canadian Film Weekly, 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Canada.

Published by Film Publications of Canada, Ltd., 25 Dundas Square, Toronto, Ont., Canada. Phone ADelaide 4317. Price 5 cents each or $2.00 per year. Entered as Second Class Matter

Printed by Eveready Printers Limited, 78 Wellington Street West, Toronto, Ontario

May Challenge PQ Juve Law

(Continued from Page 1)

gether last year to ask for some revision of the present restriction but nothing came of it.

A typical protest is the following from a recent issue of the Montreal Star:

Sir,—It seems right that children under sixteen should not be allowed to see all movies, or to go unattended by an adult, but there are from time to time really good pictures that it should be possible for these children to see. One point that seems particularly important to me is that, with the best initial will in the world, a parent may in the end begin to feel that she will—if she can—break the law and attempt to let her children see a really good film. This is not good for the children; most parents want to bring them up to be law-abiding and to respect law. But, when a law seems unreasonable and foolish, the most hidebound parent will slip and decide that in some cases he will descend to an attempt to break the law.

Surely the law could be amended to allow children to attend selected movies, starred perhaps as in England, and only such movies. It could also with benefit be made to insist that children of under fourteen should be accompanied by an adult.

There are a great many movies that children are missing in Quebec which are really good, many others that would give them great entertainment and would certainly do them less harm, imaginatively, than many of the radio programs they listen to. I add my protest to that of the previous writer, and urge that other parents, who feel that some movies should be open to children, to join together to bring pressure to bear to have the law as it at present stands changed.

"J. S. A."

Collins to NFB In McLean Spot

C. E. Collins has succeeded A. G. McLean to the post of .controller and secretary to the National Film Board. McLean, on loan from the war services department, quit recently. Collins was on the staff of the auditor general's branch of the revenue department.

NOW AVAILABLE

Stage Curtains, Drapes and Standee Rope in Crimson or Tangerine

Velour

Send in measurements for quotations and samples

CANADIAN THEATRE CHAIR CO.

277 Victoria St., Toronto, Ont.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 9, No. 7 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK February 16, 1944

'Murder on the Waterfront'

with John Loder, Warren Douglas
Warner 49 Mins.

ACCEPTABLE FORMULA MELODRAMA IS MARKED BY FAST ACTION AND COMPACTNESS OF STORY.

"Murder on the Waterfront" is a compact melodrama which packs plenty of action in its limited footage. The film has high speed, which is due primarily to the direction of B. Reaves Eason, and story with well-sustained suspense, for which much of the credit goes to Robert E. Kent, who did the screenplay from a play by Ralph Spenser Zink. Kent obtained good results with formula material.

Although the cast has little marquee power, it performs competently. The strongest name in the line-up is that of John Loder. Among the other players are Warren Douglas, Joan Winfield, Ruth Ford, Bill Crago, Bill Kennedy, William B. Davidson, Don Costello and James Flavin.

The story revolves around the murder in a waterfront warehouse of the inventor of a vital thermostat for use on planes. Many persons are suspected of the crime, each with a logical motive. Among them are Loder, a naval surgeon; Miss Winfield, a showgirl; Costello, a knife thrower; Ruth Ford, his assistant. Douglas plays a young sailor, Miss Winfield's husband, who almost becomes a victim of the killer. The murderer turns out to be a ship's officer working for the Nazis who wanted the secret of the thermostat. The character, played by Bill Kennedy, is disposed of by Costello with a bayonet after an exciting set-to with the authorities.

This film makes a good short filler on double bills on which the top feature is extra long.

CAST: Warren Douglas, John Winfield, John Loder, Ruth Ford, Bill Crago, Bill Kennedy, William B. Davidson, Don Costello, James Flavin, Bill Edwards, Ross Ford, DeWolf Hopper, John Maxwell, Phil Van Zandt, Frank Mayo, Fred Kelsey.

DIRECTION, Okay. PHOTOGRAPHY, Okay.

Albert Holloway Dies Was Projectionist

Albert Holloway, 52, projectionist of the Arcadian Theatre, Toronto, died suddenly of a heart attack last week. Interment was at Port Elgin, Ontario. Surviving are his widow, two daughters at home and two sons with the Canadian army in Italy.

'Happy Land'

with Don Ameche, Frances Dee
20th-Fox 75 Mins.

EMOTIONAL THUNDERBOLT IS ONE OF THE BEST FILMS OF THE YEAR; BIG GROSSES INDICATED.

From the Mackinlay Kantor novel Kenneth Macgowan has produced a film that can be recommended unqualifiedly. "Happy Land" is a human document that speaks in universal terms. Its emotional power is such that tremendous grosses will be realized everywhere. Done with rare honesty and sincerity, the picture is one of the finest screen achievements of the year. That it brings to the eyes tears of which one is unashamed is one of the greatest tributes to the film.

The film attempts to answer in simple and eloquent language the question that has tortured the minds of many parents who have lost sons in the war. While the answer may not always be clear to some minds, it has been given in a manner that brings a tightening of the throat and overwhelms one with compassion. The picture may make it possible for parents of fallen sons to face their loss with a new courage and greater understanding.

The picture takes the case of a Midwestern drugstore proprietor to convey its thought. Notified of the death of his boy, the man withdraws from the world to brood in solitude. His wife and his friends are concerned about him. One day his grandfather, long dead, reappears on earth to clear away his doubts and to explain the son's death in terms that will make his loss bearable.

"Happy Land" is a triumph of direction. Pichel has obtained superb results from his cast. Don Ameche is the druggist; Florence Dee, his wife; Harry Carey, the grandfather; Richard Crane, the son; Ann Rutherford, the boy's sweetheart. All are fine.

CAST: Don Ameche, Frances Dee, Harry Carey, Ann Rutherford, Cara Williams, Richard Crane, Henry Morgan, Minor Watson, Dickie Moore, William Weber, Oscar O'Shea, Adeline De Walt Reynolds, Roseanne Murray, James West, Larry Olsen, Bernard Thomas, Terry Masengale, Edwin Mills, James J. Smith, Mary Wickes, Walter Baldwin, Tom Stevenson, Aileen Pringle, Matt Moore, Darla Hood, Richard Abbott, Lillian Bronson, Ferris Taylor, Larry Thompson, Paul Weigel, Ned Dobson, Jr., Jackie Averill, Joe Bernard, Housley Stevens, Elvin Field, Juanita Quigley, Milton Kibbee, John Dilson, Leigh Whipper, Marjorie Cooley, Robert Dudley, Pass Le Noir.

DIRECTION, Superlative. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

'Standing Room Only'

with Fred MacMurray, Paulette Goddard
Paramount 83 Mins.

WASHINGTON HOUSING SITUATIO INSPIRES A COMEDY THAT IS HEADED FOR SPANKING GROSSES.

The Washington housing shortage has been treated with devastating results in this romantic comedy. The film spares no satire in making its point, going all-out in its determination to provide the kind of entertainment sought by the public at the moment. Things happen fast and furiously in a script that is packed with snappy and intelligent dialogue and situations that are loaded with laughs. The title should give the exhibitor a hint as to what to expect when he plays this one.

Fred MacMurray and Paulette Goddard comprise the romantic pairing in "Standing Room Only." The former is a toy factory executive; the latter, his secretary. Miss Goddard, who really knows nothing about secretarial duties, gets her job through sheer gall. She wants to be near MacMurray, and she can't think of any better way than to be his secretary. Matters start humming when MacMurray is sent to Washington, by his boss, Edward Arnold, in an effort to obtain a war contract. It is imperative that he beat a competitor to the punch. In Washington MacMurray has a tough time finding a place to stay and trying to see the proper government official. The only way MacMurray and Miss Goddard can get a roof over their heads is to go to work for Roland Young as butler and maid. The situation creates no end of hilarity.

Darrell Ware and Karl Tunberg have devised a cockeyed screenplay from a yarn by Al Martin. Sidney Lanfield has given their material fine direction. He hasn't allowed the interest to sag for an instant. Paul Jones well deserves the associate-producer credit.

MacMurray and Miss Goddard play the top roles strictly for laughs, of which they get plenty. Young nearly steals the show from the stars. Others who are good are Arnold, Anne Revere, Hillary Brooke, Kolb, Porter Hall, Isobel Randolph.

CAST: Fred MacMurray, Paulette Goddard, Edward Arnold, Hillary Brooke, Roland Young, Anne Revere, Clarence Kolb, Isobel Randolph, Porter Hall, Marie McDonald, Josephine Whittell, Veda Ann Borg.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

'The Sultan's Daughter'

with Ann Corio
Monogram 64 Mins.

WACKY COMEDY SHOULD GARNER NEAT HARVEST OF LAUGHS IN POP HOUSES.

This wacky offering is designed solely for laughs—and gets a nice quota of them. The chief laugh-winners are Tim and Irene Ryan, with Charles Butterworth also scoring with his droll efforts. Fortunio Bonanova is also another laugh getter, while Freddie Fisher and his novelty orchestra amuse with their corny playing.

Although Ann Corio plays the title role, she is used chiefly for eye-filling purposes. Edward Norris does good work as Tim Ryan's fellow vaudevillian stranded in Egypt. Jack LaRue, Chris-Pin Martin and Gene Oliver are among the supporting players.

Oliver, a Nazi agent, and Bonanova, who poses as a friend of Butterworth, seek rights to oil lands controlled by Ann, Butterworth's daughter. Oliver and Bonanova try to have Ryan and Norris pose as wealthy oil men to gain the oil rights for Oliver and Bonanova, but the Americans refuse to work with them. Of course, justice prevails in the end, and Oliver and Bonanova's plans are thwarted.

Arthur Dreifuss turned in a good job of directing.

CAST: Ann Corio, Tim and Irene Ryan, Charles Butterworth, Fortunio Bonanova, Edward Norris, Jack LaRue, Chris-Pin Martin, Gene Oliver, Joseph H. Greene, Freddie Fisher and his orchestra.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

Durbin Signs New Universal Contract

Deanna Durbin last week signed a new exclusive six-year contract with Universal, the studio announced. Miss Durbin signed on the dotted line as she finished her 14th film "Christmas Holiday."

UA Sets 'Mayerling' For Technicolor

Seymour Nebenzal, who produced the original 'Mayerling' in France some years ago with Charles Boyer and Danielle Darrieux as its stars, will handle the production of the forthcoming United Artists Technicolor remake of that film. The new "Mayerling" goes before the cameras in April.

The next Warner pictu

IT IS THIS KIND

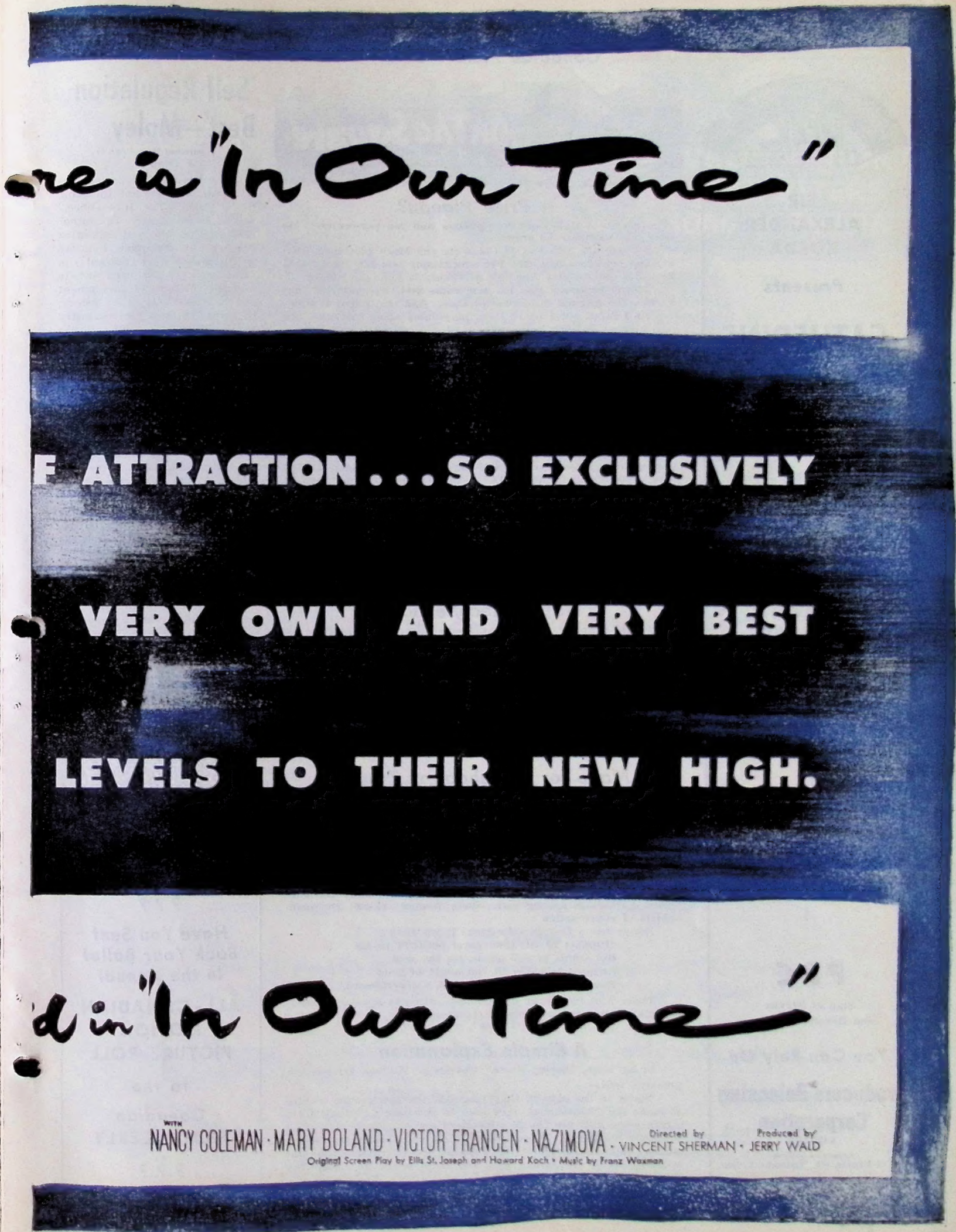
WARNER BROS.

...THAT IS HOLDING THEATRE

Ida Lupino and Paul Henrei

Hail to "The Best Actress of 1943!"

(VOTED BY THE NEW YORK FILM CRITICS)


re is "In Our Time"
F ATTRACTION . . . SO EXCLUSIVELY
VERY OWN AND VERY BEST
LEVELS TO THEIR NEW HIGH.
d in "In Our Time"
WITH
NANCY COLEMAN · MARY BOLAND · VICTOR FRANCEN · NAZIMOVA
Directed by VINCENT SHERMAN · Produced by JERRY WALD
Original Screen Play by Ellis St. Joseph and Howard Koch · Music by Franz Waxman

Producers Releasing Corporation Limited
P.R.C.
H. J. ALLEN, President

SIR ALEXANDER KORDA

Presents

CATHERINE THE GREAT

DIRECTED BY

Paul Czinner

WITH

the Incomparable

ELIZABETH BERGNER

and

DOUGLAS FAIRBANKS JR.

First of a series of truly ALL-TIME GREATS

PRC

Sign of Service and Boxoffice Success

You Can Rely On

Producers Releasing Corporation

LIMITED

Executive Offices:
277 Victoria St., Toronto, 2, Ont.

A Prize Pigeon?

Talk about Hollywood flesh-pedlars and ten per-centers! We have our neighborhood brand.

I overheard Lou Fox of Columbia and Mark Plottel of RKO arguing the other day. Mr. Fox unwittingly told Mr. Plottel that he had a date to play Abe Cass of Columbia some gin rummy.

Plottel protested that his date came first. Fox retorted that he was the original discoverer of Cass. And that's how it went.

As I faded out I heard them bargaining about priorities, the deal hinging on what percentage of profits derived from a session with Abe should go to the one who surrenders his claim.

* *

Observanda

Talk about theatre thievery—some thieves rolled up a large rug in a Chicago theatre and no one can figure out how they walked out without being seen. . . During a recent Chase & Sanborne show Basil Rathbone jousted with Charlie McCarthy. At the end of the program the announcer said, "Basil Rathbone has appeared through courtesy of MGM—producers of "Madame Curie." That's stretching for publicity. A theatre man told me about it who didn't think it was nice. . . Beau Broadway observes that the Globe Theatre, New York, is charging $1.25 tops for "Where Are Your Children?" and adds that "it was not so long ago that you could buy three shares of Monogram Pictures for that price." . . Much of Ward Morehouse's book, "George M. Cohan—Prince of the American Theatre" was written at the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec.

* * *

Happy Recollections

At the hearing before Judge Pierre Casgrain of the Kent vs. the Snowden one witness mentioned that "Sweater Girl" had been shown at the Kent. The judge smiled and said: "I have not seen this film but I well remember having seen "La Femme du Boulanger" ("The Baker's Wife").

"You should have seen it," answered the witness, "before the censors made their cuts."

The judge, lawyers and spectators laughed heartily, imagination being what it is.

* * *

Motto for a Mahogany Trough

Every kibitzer knows the world of the tablecloth tycoons, those nocturnal geniuses who make a million dollars with a pencil and go hustling lunch money the same as always.

A branch of this same organization is the "Cut-'em-Up and Leave-'em-Bleeding Club," which meets at noon hours. These check fumble-bums sit in judgment on the other guys in the business. Any departures from derogatory digging are confined to discussions about the other fellow's money. These are the only casual gatherings among men where women are not the main subject of conversation.

Homer has a few lines for them in his Iliad:

"Prophet of Ill! thou never speak'st to me
But words of evil omen; for thy soul
Delights to augur ill, but aught of good
Thou never yet has't promis'd, nor performed."

Those lines have even greater application to appeasers, isolationists, pessimists and whisper repeaters.

* * *

A Simple Explanation

In his book, "Seeing Stars," Charles L. Wagner, famous impresario, writes:

"Early in the days of the Vitagraph, the first motion picture to make the Chautauquas, they used to announce a realistic train wreck scene between the Northwestern and the Burlington. The projector started, the Northwestern train sped across the canvas screen; then darkness! After a pause the operator would announce, 'Sorry, we cannot give the train wreck to night—the Burlington is two hours late.'"

'Self Regulation Best'—Moley

(Continued from Page 1)

of the New Deal.

Moley has been preparing material for six years and the book, to be titled "The Hay Office," will be issued shortly. The author believes that the self-regulation practices by the movie industry is "profoundly significant in these days of confused debate over the relations of government and business." It is a history, he says, of how one industry learned to govern itself. He has reached the conclusion that "fundamentally anything is better than government regulation."

Other parts of the book will deal with the establishment, purposes and operation of the Production Code; the mobilization of social, civic and religious groups to develop public opinion for better pictures; and the promotion of the industry's foreign relations and its future plans.

Most interesting to the trade will be Moley's section on industry self-regulation and the need to exercise it competently. The possibility of further government control in Canada is one which worries the industry. The problems of Canada and the United States are not so far apart in the motion picture fields and Moley's findings should have considerable application here.

Fire Destroys Alta. Theatre

A fire which started in the basement completely destroyed the Sylvia Theatre, Newcastle, Alberta, last week. The fire, which caused $12,000 worth of damage, came shortly before a matinee performance. The Sylvia, owned and operated by Leo Thomas, was one of four film houses in the Drumheller coal valley district.

???

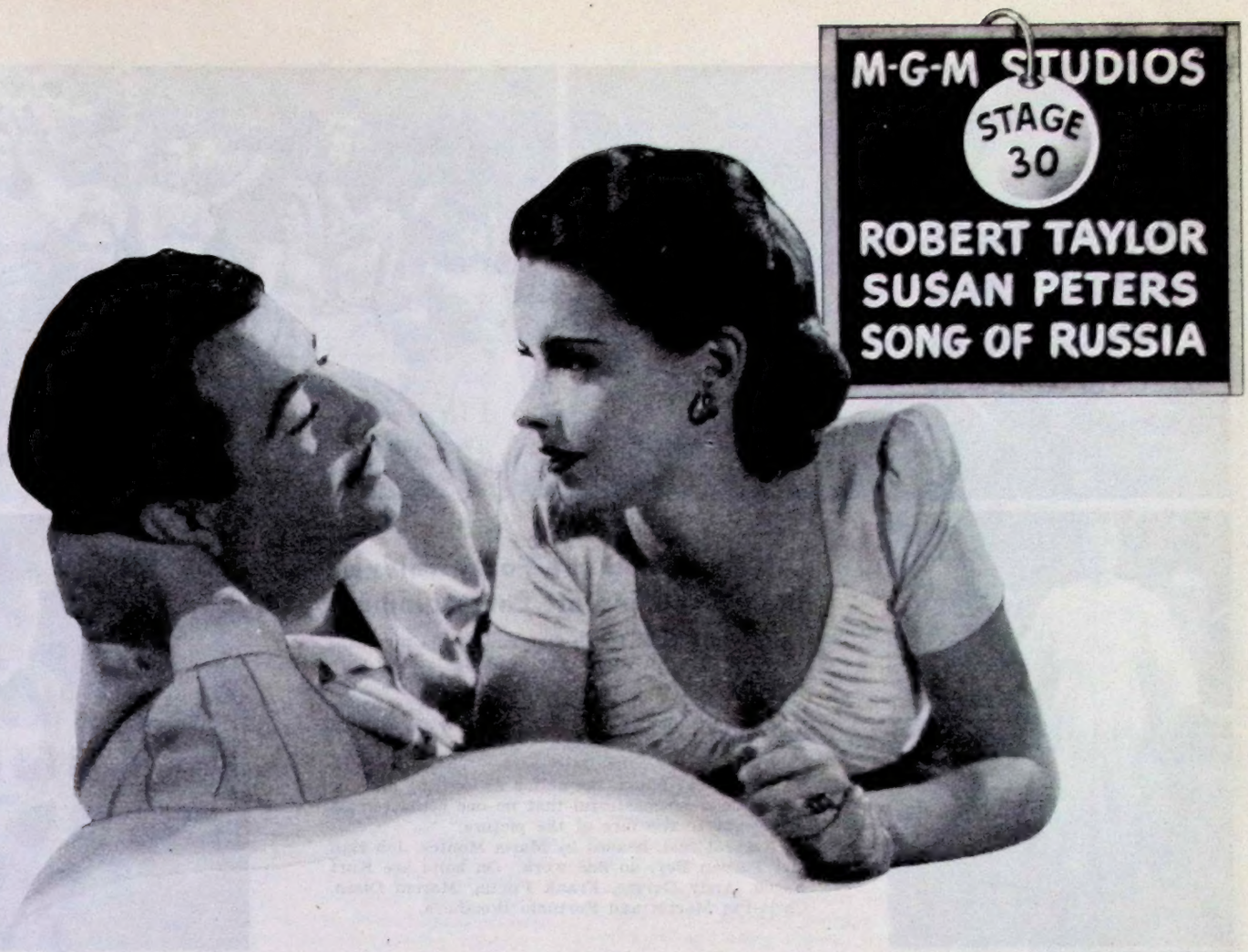
Have You Sent Back Your Ballot in the Annual

ALL-CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE POLL

to the

Canadian FILM WEEKLY

???



OVERHEARD ON THE SET OF M-G-M's "SONG OF RUSSIA"

ROBERT TAYLOR:

"Nice going Susan! They used to call you 'The Random Harvest Gal,' but from now on you're 'The Song of Russia Sweetheart'!"

SUSAN PETERS:

"You look mighty snappy yourself, Mr. T., as a Yank in Moscow."

ROBERT TAYLOR:

"Our international kiss gets its World Premiere at the Capitol, N. Y., February 10th, following 7 weeks of 'A Guy Named Joe'. . . a good guy to follow!"

SUSAN PETERS:

"Wait till they get a screenful of *our* love affair, Bob, and the gorgeous music and the thrilling action."

BOB AND SUSAN:

"Here's a good spot to say thanks to our cast: John Hodiak, Robert Benchley, Felix Bressart and all the others. And to Screenplay Writers Paul Jarrico and Richard Collins and a special salute to Director Gregory Ratoff and Producer Joseph Pasternak. And of course a nod to the world's greatest studio—need we mention the name!"

'Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves' Lush Technicolor Entertainment

ONE of the most lavish films in years, Universal's "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves" is filled with vast scenes made to order for Technicolor. The ancient tale has never been given a better production and the film is the finest example of escapist entertainment this season.

In its review Film Daily said: "The sets are so lavish and eye-filling, the action so exciting and the use of color so masterful that no one could remain indifferent to the lure of the picture."

A great cast, headed by Maria Montez, Jon Hall and Turhan Bey, do fine work. On hand are Kurt Katch, Andy Devine, Frank Puglia, Moroni Olsen, Chris-Pin Martin and Fortunio Bonanova.

Winnipeg Deal KO'd by WPTB

(Continued from Page 1)

used for the public exhibition of moving pictures for profit on January 31st, 1942, shall hereafter be used for such purpose except with the written authorization of the Administrator of Services."

M. W. McCutcheon, administrator of services, whose offices are located in Toronto, refused to make an exception in the case of the Playhouse, which has been opened periodically for movies or vaudeville or both. The Winnipeg City Council will appeal the decision and the date of occupancy to the new purchaser, represented by S. W. Robertson, will be extended for several months. Robertson will also make representations to the WPTB.

There is no objection to the Playhouse being used as a vaudeville house, since the regulations mention moving pictures only. In the meantime the theatre may be used for staging student dramatics.

The new tenant was to pay $4,800 annually for three years, with an option to buy after that time. The city was to make structural repairs.

Lease on the house was formerly held by Max and Joseph Freed, whose two-year lease ran out on November 1st 1941. They continued to occupy the premises without renewal and were $8,400 in arrears when the lease was disposed of to the present holder.

NFB Rentals Total $88,800 to June, '43

Rentals in 1943 up to May 31 from films placed in theatres brought the National Film Board $88,800, it was revealed in the House of Commons. E. G. Hansell, member for MacLeod, asked for information.

Newfoundland House Nears Completion

The new Cinema Theatre being erected in St. John's, Newfoundland, by B. D. Parsons and Co., Water St., at a cost of $125,000, is almost ready to open. Luke and Little of Montreal are the architects.

C. Boasberg of RKO Visits Toronto

Charlie Boasberg, Cleveland district manager for RKO, who is leading the Ned Depinet Drive this season, was in Toronto for staff talks last week. With him was his lieutenant, Harry Gittelson. Chief subject was the deal with International for 1944-45 product.

Esquire's '44 List Looks Real Good

A little late but making up for it in the quality of its offerings, Esquire Films announces its Victory Group of 20 British films from such outstanding companies as Ealing, Gainsborough and the pick of the leading United Kingdom distributing outfit, General Films Limited.

Heading the list as super-productions are "San Demetrio, London," and "The Great Mr. Handel," in Technicolor. The productions are worlds apart in theme and background.

"San Demetrio, London" is the story of the great convoy battle in which the historic Jervis Bay went down. Produced by Michael Balcom, British ace, for Ealing, it features the most thrilling sea battle in the history of the movies.

The cast, featuring Mervyn Johns, Walter Fitzgerald and Gordon Jackson, contains three Canadians — Robert Beatty of Hamilton, James Donald of Montreal and John Canniwin, overseas director for the CBC.

"The Great Mr. Handel," is beautiful Technicolor and featuring a great musical score, tells the life of the classic composer in relaxing fashion. It is a period picture, staged in costume against the background of a century ago.

The Variety, New York, in reviewing the film, said: "Obviously music is the keynote and triumphantly dominates the film as played by the London Philharmonic Orchestra and is a feast of total beauty. Costumes and sets are sumptuously colorful and in these days surprisingly extravagant."

A number of the films are outstanding, among them Michael Balcon's "Went the Day Well?" This is a story of England invaded in a most unsuspecting way and maintains an intense interest throughout. It stars Leslie Banks, Elizabeth Allen, Frank Lawton, Basil Sydney, Edward Rigby and others. This is a cast second to none.

Another top production by Balcon, "The Bells Go Down," is perhaps one of the most original in a long time. The film tells the story of fire-fighters during the blitz, a branch of the service and a kind of heroism being screened for the first time. There are many Canadian volunteers in the fire-fighting service. For all its interesting and novel background and developments, the film has much comedy, most of which comes through the presence of Tommy Trinder, who made a big hit in "The First Commando."

Listed high is "King Arthur was a Gentleman," a rollicking musical comedy starring Arthur Askey, who in 1942 was rated to be one of Britain's top comics.

Other films are:

"Undercover," a story of the Yugoslav guerrillas, with John Clements, star of "Convoy" and Mary Morris, star of "Mr. V."

"Nine Men," a story of the Libyan Desert, produced by Balcon with a great cast.

"Ghost of St. Michael's," a comedy-mystery thriller with Will Hay and Claude Hulbert.

"Silver Fleet," an outstanding picture with Ralph Richardson, which was pre-released in Canada some time ago. It's about war against the U-Boats at their bases.

"Thunder Rock," with Michael Redgrave, Barbara Mullen and Lilli Palmer.

"Dear Octupus," definitely an escapist film, starring Margaret Lockwood and many others. It's about pre-war family life.

"Millions Like Us," a comedy-romance about war workers, in which the fine actor, Eric Portman of "49th Parallel" is starred.

"Talk About Jacqueline," story of a glamor girl in Europe's carefree pre-war playgrounds. It stars Hugh Williams and Carla Lehman, the latter a Canadian girl.

"The Man in Grey," a red-blooded romantic drama of other days in England, in which Margaret Lockwood is starred. It's definitely escapist.

"Halfway House," a ghostly comedy thriller with the great French actress, Francoise Rosay.

"Miss London Limited," happy-go-lucky story of an escort agency, with plenty of fun, which stars Arthur Askey.

"My Learned Friend," a screwball comedy about the intended bombing of the House of Lords by a nut, in which Will Hay, Claude Hulbert and Mervyn Johns are starred.

"Secret Mission," a spy drama with Hugh Williams and Carla Lehman.

"They Met in the Dark," romantic comedy-thriller about a vanished corpse, produced on a lavish scale.

"Headline," crime drama with newspaper angle, in which Anne Crawford is starred with permission of Warner Brothers.

MONOGRAM PICTURES OF CANADA LTD.
277 Victoria Street, Toronto.

★

Monogram

HITS THE JACKPOT WITH THREE HITS

Breaking records in every theatre shown to date and will do the same for you

WHERE ARE YOUR CHILDREN?

Jackie Cooper, Gale Storm, Patricia Collinge and an all-star cast

★

WOMEN IN BONDAGE

Gail Patrick, Nancy Kelly, Bill Henry, Gertrude Michael, H. B. Warner

Here is a picture every woman in Canada is waiting to see

★

Belita in LADY LET'S DANCE

Belita is a revelation and a dance sensation

James Ellison, Frick and Frack (world's greatest comedy skating team), Walter Catlett, four top bands — Eddie LeBaron, Lou Bring, Henry Busse

Variety—"Belita's skating is sensational, and her solo number is a show stopper.

LADY LET'S DANCE is a real escapist picture — 100% entertainment for old and young.

★

The new "big name" company in the industry.

MONOGRAM PICTURES

Toronto, Montreal, St. John, Winnipeg, Calgary, Vancouver.

The "KIDS" are doing fine!

JAMES CAGNEY
IN
"THE OKLAHOMA KID"

Beat original release figures by
129% - Hamilton 378% - London
67% - Winnipeg 100% - Vancouver
Same story everywhere!

JAMES CAGNEY
IN
"FRISCO KID"

OFF TO A FAST START IN THE U.S.

For re-release in Canada - MARCH 4

ALSO IN RE-RELEASE . . . . . AND BIG!

"Crime School" and "Girls on Probation"
(HUMPHREY BOGART DEAD END KIDS) (RONALD REAGAN)

THREE whopper weeks at the Strand, Montreal, in first key engagement!

WINNERS from WARNERS!